

House Republican Press Release

May 9, 2006
Press Office: 860-240-8700

LEGISLATURE APPROVES REP. WINKLER LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS HOSPITAL ADMISSION, CARE ISSUES



On Wednesday, May 3, the General Assembly unanimously approved legislation introduced by State Rep. Lenny Winkler, R-Groton, that would allow the state Department of Public Health (DPH) to address issues involving the admission of patients into hospitals. Senate Bill 317, An Act Concerning Revisions To Department Of Public Health Statutes, now moves to Governor M. Jodi Rell for final approval.

SB 317 contains an initiative that would require the Quality of Care Advisory Commission, which advises DPH on ways to measure health care facilities' clinical performance, to make recommendations on best practices concerning communications between patients' primary care providers and other providers involved in patient care. The communication practices must include specialists and hospitalists, which are a consortium of physicians, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Physicians Assistants (PAs).

The hospitalist administers the admission of patients into Connecticut hospitals and often manages their complete care while hospitalized without input from an individual patient's primary care physician. The commission must make its recommendations to DPH by January 1, 2008.

"In many cases, a patient's primary care physician has no involvement in their hospitalization process," said Rep. Winkler. "This system can be detrimental to the comfort level of the patient but can also prevent their primary doctor from offering important personal medical history and information at a crucial time. This legislation marks a start to working to establish the consultation of a patient's primary care physician when they are admitted into a hospital."